

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## SNAPSHOT PAINTS A REALISTIC AND RAW VIEW OF YOUNG VOICES

**16 MAY 2023**

The newly released Youth Unmet Needs Snapshot has captured authentic voices from young people describing their personal challenges experienced while living in the Isaac region.

The snapshot is a culmination of feedback Isaac Regional Council received from the community, in consultation with Greater Whitsunday Communities (GWC).

The unmet needs require a whole of community approach where GWC will use the information as a vehicle to host an upcoming regional youth summit.

Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker commended the vulnerability Isaac's young people displayed in speaking their own truth through their responses in this historic snapshot.

"Our Isaac youth represent strong social values. They have a level of resilience that sets them apart from the rest of our nation. With this resilience comes its own set of unique challenges," Mayor Baker said.

"Our youth make up 33 per cent of the Isaac region's population living in a geographic footprint that is the size of Tasmania. The rurality of the Isaac region makes it hard for them to access key service providers. It also makes it difficult to meet others in a similar age and demographic. We must hear them and act together. We want our youth to feel seen, heard, empowered, capable, loved, and valued in the Isaac region. What worries our youth, should worry us all and it should not fall on one set of shoulders."

GWC Chair Mackay Regional Councillor Karen May said the snapshot is important piece of work is to seek out what unmet needs young people aged between 12 and 18 face in Isaac's 17 unique communities.

"What this snapshot has found that it needs different layers of government, not-for-profit organisations and industry input to help solve these issues through workshops planned in the future," Cr May said.

"This will also set the scene to focus on a regional youth summit where young adults will be invited to take part in a collaborative process to address the concerns with stakeholders."

Council will take this collection of voices to social services, industry, and other levels of government to address the uphill battle of service gaps and barriers and pave a positive path forward.

Mayor Baker said Council looks forward to continuing this work with our youth because they are our region's future.

"As a community, we must have the fortitude to acknowledge these shortcomings, problems, and unmet needs," Mayor Baker said. "We must work together as a collective to address barriers. This snapshot is the first step towards meaningful and lasting solutions to empower our youth."

Sessions will begin from today, starting at Middlemount Community School and making its way across Moranbah, Dysart, Glenden, Nebo, Clermont and the Isaac Coast over the next few months.

**ENDS**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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